

April 17, 2001
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

To Interested Agencies, Environmental Groups and Individuals:

This Statement of Findings (SOF) finalizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) process conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act on Federal actions, and of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act procedures for Isles Dernieres Barrier Island, New Cut Dune/Marsh Restoration Project (TE-11a/TE-37). The preliminary Finding of No significant Impact was issued for public notice on January 10, 2001, and the 30-day comment period expired on February 10, 2001.

The SOF transmits the supplement amending the EA to address and incorporate the concerns raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Although the FWS and the NMFS support the proposed project, they have requested that the EA be revised to incorporate their recommendations. Specifically, the FWS is concerned that unless the design of the project is modified, the project will contribute to a cumulative reduction in the amount of intertidal habitat. New designs have been prepared for this project and are included as part of this SOF. The FWS and the NMFS have been provided responses to their comment letters as required by Section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), PL 104-297.

The EPA thus has determined that the proposed project will not result in a significant adverse impact to the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

Responsible Official,

Gregg A. Cooke
Regional Administrator

Attachments